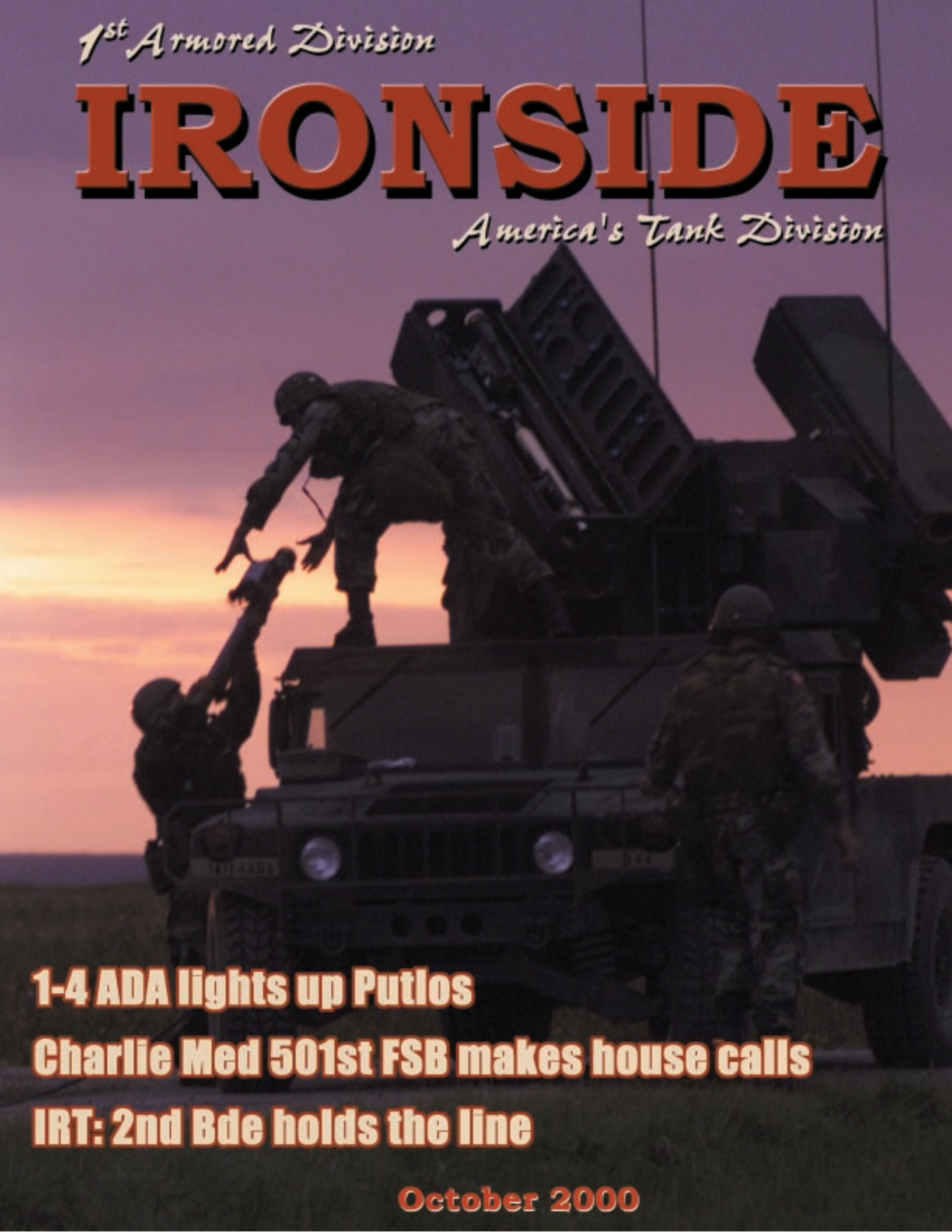


1st Armored Division

IRONSIDE

America's Tank Division



1-4 ADA lights up Putlos

Charlie Med 501st FSB makes house calls

IRT: 2nd Bde holds the line

October 2000

Iron Brigade Cook of the year Putlos, Germany strikes hard at IRT Man on the Connelly competition street...



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Photo by Spc. Joe Thompson
Commander Bill Foster, of the USS Constitution, shakes hands with Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., commander of the 1st Armored Division, as old bonds are renewed aboard "Old Ironsides" in Boston Harbor, Aug. 25.

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Iron Soldiers!

America's Tank Division is fully engaged. We've focused our efforts on several major events including the 1-4 ADA's Aerial Gunnery at Putlos, 1-1Cav's CMTC rotation and exercise with SETAF. Our main focus is sustaining Task Force Falcon 2A and organizing, training and preparing 2nd Brigade for its Kosovo rotation with Staff Exercises, Individual Readiness Training, riot control training, a functional area analysis, a Fire Coordination Exercise and at the end of September, TFF 2B's Mission Rehearsal Exercise.

2nd Brigade ran an outstanding gunnery and live fire exercise. Soldiers focused hard on their respective tables and proved they are ready for conventional warfighting. They've laid the foundation for a smooth transition into Kosovo this coming December and are well on their way to a successful KFOR rotation.

Our soldiers in Kosovo have made steady progress in their sector. The "Ready First" combat team has been doing an outstanding job in Kosovo helping bring peace and stability to the

region. Every day our soldiers are building relationships with the local population and maintaining a safe and secure environment so agencies like the United Nations Mission in Kosovo can make a better life for everyone. As Iron Soldiers help make those small improvements every day, they build a lasting peace for tomorrow.

Reserve, National Guard, and active-duty soldiers from the United States bring much needed talent and expertise to the KFOR mission. These units are fully integrated into the Task Force and are continuing great work as a part of the Falcon team.

The Kosovo rotation will still take some work. Keep your heads in the game! A lot of hard work went into all the training you've completed. Focus on your efforts that made the transfer of authority from the IID in June so successful and build on the lessons learned to make our transition seamless.

Remember: the most important soldier we have in this Division is the soldier on duty in Kosovo.

Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr.



Old Ironsides

Commentary by
Spc. Joe Thompson
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany—Anyone walking into the 1st Armored Division Headquarters will notice the fairly

large division patch and underneath that a replica of an old ship. For those who don't know, the ship is the USS Constitution, nicknamed "Old Ironsides" from its campaign during the War of 1812.

On a recent trip to Boston, I had the opportunity to meet the crew of the oldest commissioned warship in the U.S. Navy, and like the many sailors in Boston, I knew as little about the ship "Old Ironsides" as they did about the 1st Armored Division. Under the direction of Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, 1st Armored Division Commander, we established a friendship with the sailors of the USS Constitution and renewed our bond with the old ship.

The bond started back at the inception of the 1st Armored Division in 1940, when then Division Commander Maj. Gen. Bruce Magruder, named the 1st Armored Division after the battle-proven ship. Since then, 1st Armored Division has been historically welded to that old frigate of the past.

If you get the chance, do a little historical research and learn something about our history and the history of the ship. You'll come away with a sense of pride, knowing that the division in which you serve is named after one of the greatest ships in American history.

KFOR makes house calls

Story and photos by
Spc. Derek Smith
326th MPAD

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo—Members of Company C, 501st Forward Support Battalion, in conjunction with personnel from the Russian 13th Tactical Group, conducted a routine Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) in the town on July 14. The unit typically conducts the MEDCAP in different communities – on average, three times a week.

A MEDCAP provides immediate medical care to persons suffering from minor conditions. For major medical concerns, the individual is referred to the nearest hospital facility.

“Some might refer to it as ‘tailgate medicine,’” explained 2nd Lt. Bianca Ellis, treatment platoon



Sgt. Douglas R. Morris (right), squad leader for Company C, 501st Forward Support Battalion, is assisted by Nevenka Galevska, a Macedonian interpreter, in doing a preliminary medical screening on an elderly Kosovar-Serb woman during a Medical Civil Action Program in the town of Carevce, July 14.

leader for Company C, 501st FSB. “This is a temporary fix. We don’t have the means to treat long-term illnesses. We try to provide medical care until [the local community] can provide for

itself.”

“We’re trying to get to the remote areas that don’t have a medical facility . . . the places that really need us,” Ellis continued. “There are plenty of areas we still need to reach.”

Persons seeking treatment arrived and were screened. Vital signs and medical information were taken before the patient saw the doctor. The most common afflictions recorded by the members of Company C, 501st FSB were muscular-skeletal problems and skin problems, commonly rashes.

More than 20 people from the community were examined. None were referred to a medical

facility. Most ailments were easily treated by dispensing pain relievers, according to Ellis.

“I like doing this,” said Sgt. Douglas R. Morris, squad leader for Company C, 501st FSB. “A lot of work needs to be done out here. I think we have an effect.”

Morris, on his first actual MEDCAP mission, examined and screened each person seeking help.

The continuing mission of MEDCAPs is to provide medical support to the remote communities of Kosovo. Their mission of care will carry on until the communities are capable of medically supporting themselves.



Sgt. Douglas R. Morris checks the heart rate of a Kosovar-Serb man during a Medical Civil Action Program conducted in the town of Carevce, July 14.



Bad Kreuznach reservist win's USAR's Soldier of the Year

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany —Spc. Clinton T. Newman was recently selected as the U.S. Army Reserve's first-ever Soldier of the Year. Newman is an operations specialist with the 7th Army Reserve Command's 1st Armored Division's Rear Operations Center in Bad Kreuznach, Germany.

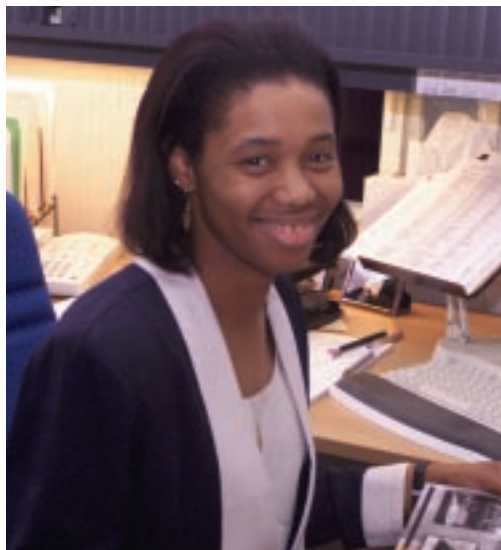
Representing reservists from around the world, Newman was recognized at the first Army Reserve-wide Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year recognition banquet held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 19.

Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Ray Lackey, the Army Reserve's top enlisted leader, presented Newman with the Army's Meritorious Service Medal at the event.

With only one week to prepare for the competition, Newman wasn't expecting to dazzle the top NCOs that comprised the board. In fact, he thought the tour of D.C., including a visit to the White House and Arlington National Cemetery, which the competing reservists took the day before they had to appear at the board, would be the highlight of his trip. So when his name was announced at the banquet, the 21-year-old was momentarily stunned.

"I was very surprised. I didn't think I was going to win," he said. But as the news sank in, Newman realized the significance of the feat.

"I'm really proud," he said. "It's been a great honor to accept this award on behalf of the 7th ARCOM. I'm speechless."



Sarah Harvey
Command Group Secretary,
1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade
Bad Kreuznach

“I like the training aspect. It gives other family members and me a chance to see what our spouses are doing in the field. A community aspect would give the division an idea of what the community has to offer to the 1st AD soldiers and families in particular.”



Ross H. Ballou, Lt. retired
Senior Army Instructor – JROTC
Bad Kreuznach High School

“I’m interested in the training stories. They keep me informed on what the soldiers in the division are doing. I would like to see personal interest stories on soldiers and what they do professionally and on their off time. Maybe some community stories like the role of the Chaplains and what they are doing in the communities.”

Man on the

street

What would you like to see in

IRONSIDE magazine

?



Spc. Natalie Deal
Piccolo / Flutist, 1st Armored Division Band
Bad Kreuznach

“I would like to see less training articles and more of the real-time missions. I would like to read about the missions in Kosovo and what the soldiers are dealing with there. It would be nice to know what the division is doing in the community. For example, the band is involved in a lot of festivals in and around Bad Kreuznach, and it would be nice to see our work in the Ironside.”



Spc. Rachel A. Buchart
Commanding General's Secretary,
1st Armored Division
Bad Kreuznach

“I would like to see less stories about training and more commentaries on Army life in the 1st Armored Division.”

Task Force 2-70 deploys to Kuwait

Story by Pfc. Kamelia Basir
19th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT RILEY, Kansas— Armed and combat ready, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor proved their competence and polished skills as they set out to deploy once again.

Operation Desert Spring has become a reality for the soldiers of Task Force 2-70 as they stood in formation at departure ceremonies on the Cavalry Parade Field July 27. “We are sending these soldiers to an important training mission,” said Maj. Gen. Freddy McFarren, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley. “It will not just be training, but they will stand ready to handle what comes to them and I know that these soldiers are ready to represent their companies, post and country very well.”

Task Force 2-70 deployed to Kuwait to continue their mission of Intrinsic Action, where they will deter regional aggression, reassure the Kuwaiti Coalition partners, conduct joint/combined

assistance training and conduct essential tasks training.

“My company is fantastic and uniquely prepared for this mission,” said Capt. Anthony Lowry, commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment. “They’re dedicated and I have no doubt that they will perform to the fullest of their capabilities.”

“We have a good sprinkling of experienced soldiers from previous deployments throughout the ranks to make sure they are trained and ready to go,” said Capt. Cameron Cantlon, commander, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment. “We make sure the new soldiers who have never deployed understand where they are going and why.”

He said the task force has put together a program to ensure the soldiers can take care of their families and keep in contact with them through email, telephone or postal mail.

Family members will have access to email at the Soldier and Family Support Center 24 hours a day. Currently, the center will have agencies available for one-on-one meetings with family members regarding finances, legal assistance and other worries. According to Pearl Speer, Relocation Program manager, the Task Force rear detachment commanding element will move into the center to make things easier for families to get the service and answers they need.

“We’ll have the resources here for the family members, as a way for them

to become familiar with the safety net that’s out there,” said Speer.

However, other family members made their own plans to take care of their spouses and children.

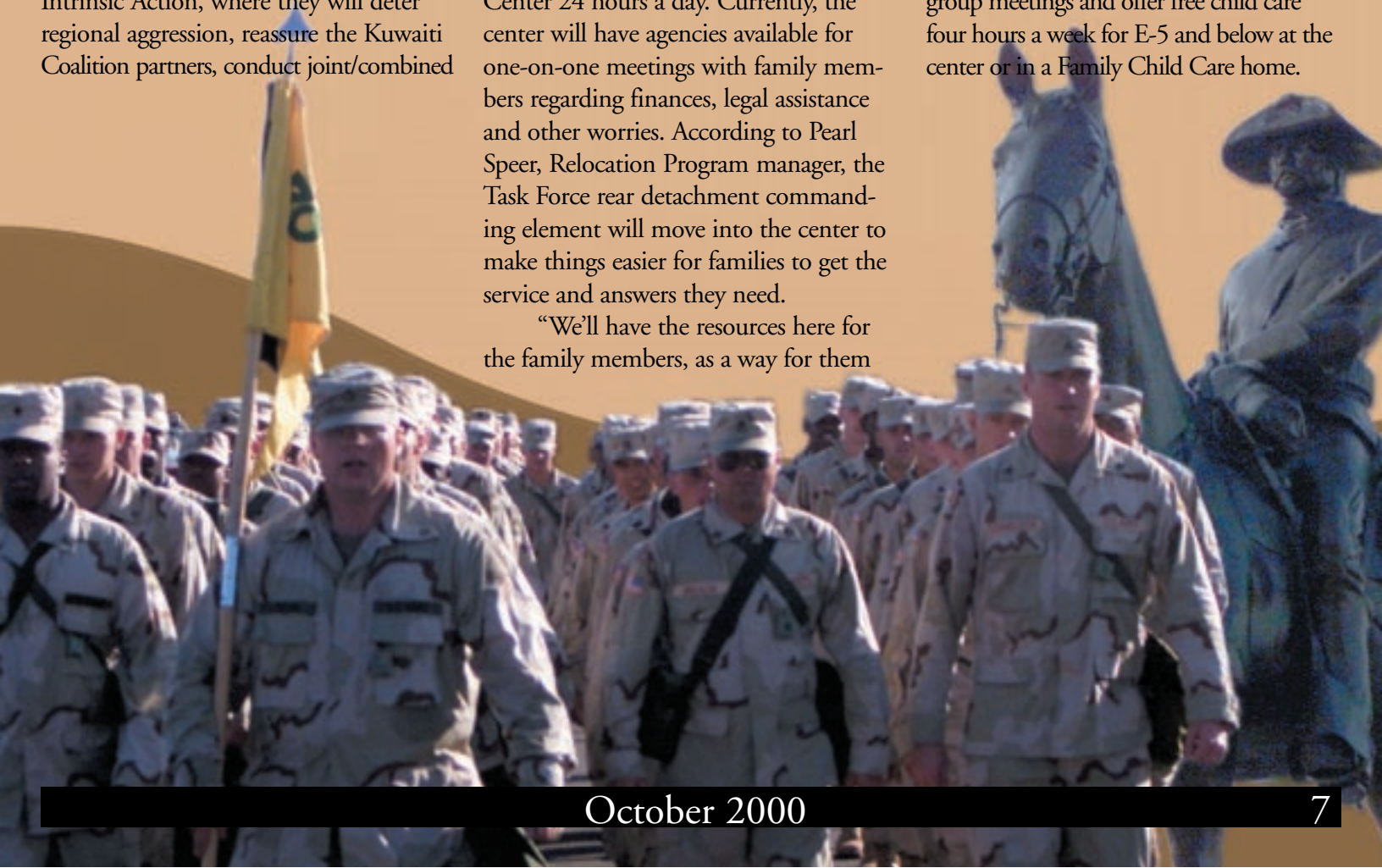
“I plan to go back to upstate New York to stay with my parents for a while,” said Emily Varner, wife of PFC Roger Varner, Troop H, 1st Cavalry, who is deploying for the first time. “I’m scared because he’s never really been gone before except to basic training and NTC.”

At the other end, soldiers in Kuwait will have eight computers with Internet access and eight telephones with Defense Switching Network connections for morale calls. Video teleconferencing is available for some events.

“Our primary focus is the families of the soldiers,” said Speer.

A fully equipped childcare room will be available with at least one parent on site.

The center will also hold readiness group meetings and offer free child care four hours a week for E-5 and below at the center or in a Family Child Care home.



2nd Brigade holds the line



Story and photos by Rebecca F. Deuel
1st Armored Division PAO

BAUMHOLDER, Germany—Sweat beaded on Spc. Jose Contreras's forehead as he watched two men carrying an apparently wounded man toward the checkpoint. Another language familiar to him was spoken rapidly, and the two men gestured from the wounded man to the gate where he stood. He looked over his shoulder to 1st Lt. Stanley Overstreet and repeated the man's words in English, then waited for an answer from the checkpoint OIC. Overstreet nodded to Contreras and the two soldiers stepped aside as the guards from Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery pulled the concertina wire out of the roadway. Two soldiers stepped through and made their way cautiously toward the wounded man in the road under the watchful eyes of several other soldiers in their unit. When they finally reached the injured man, the concealed rioters down the road howled madly and charged the open barricades.

This was only one of several scenarios in a training-packed four days of Initial Readiness Training at Baumholder, Germany's Conqueror's Park. The training was hosted by 2nd Brigade as a mandatory requirement for the soldiers that will deploy as the second part of 1st Armored Division's rotation in Kosovo, beginning late this fall.

"It's [IRT] pretty important," said Staff Sgt. Tim Bolyard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment section sergeant and IRT instructor. "Most of the brigade will be manning checkpoints or at least pulling guard duty at the gates of the U.S. compounds. It will deter terrorist activity, and also protect and save lives down there."

The Initial Readiness Training was a four-day event. Day one covered the inprocessing of the soldiers and briefings on rules of engagement and deadly force by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate General and other agencies. Day two began station and lane training. Civil disturbance lanes trained the soldiers in riot and crowd control. React-to-contact lanes exposed them to indirect fire, ambushes, snipers, minefields and medical evacuation procedures. At the checkpoint lanes,

troops learned how to conduct vehicle and personnel searches, document and personnel processing and checkpoint operations. Soldiers were then exposed to mock interviews, flashing cameras, and fast-talking reporters during the react-to-media training.

The scenario unfolded as the Quick Reaction Force armed with riot shields and batons tried to move the "rioters" from the

"It's [IRT] pretty important. It will deter terrorist activity, and also protect and save lives down there."

Staff Sgt. Tim Bolyard,
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment



Protecting his squad leader from a rioter's blow, a soldier from Battery B, 4-27 Field Artillery, struggles to hold his position in the control line during a civil-uprising scenario.

checkpoint area using one of many riot-control formations they learned in lane training. Sgt. Jack Anderson, IRT instructor from 501st Military Police Company in Bad Kreuznach, shouted "Maintain your line! Get back on line!" at the wobbly QRF soldiers who struggled against the wave of rioters.

The IRT training soldiers received put a different perspective on many military tasks. The combat soldier has taken on the additional role of the peacekeeper in past years. "It's completely different," said Spc. Allen Caldwell, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, about the role of the modern soldier. "We go from actual fighting—actual battle—to keeping the peace and keeping down civil unrest."

The training was a brigade requirement for the soldiers deploying to Kosovo later this year, and was scheduled to run through September. Leaders in units throughout 2nd Brigade will continue training soldiers in peacekeeping tasks related to the upcoming rotation at unit, platoon and squad levels in continuing preparation for the upcoming mission.



A soldier snarls through his riot shield at the roleplaying rioter while he maintains his position in the control line during the React-to-contact lane training.

Spc. Jerry Turner, HHC, 1-35 Armor Battalion, scrutinizes the engine compartment of a suspicious vehicle during IRT in Baumholder. His diligent search revealed a carefully hidden booby-trap explosive.



Photo by Spc. Amanda M. Domaszek

Staff Sgt. Wallace B. Carmichael, Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, Baumholder demonstrates how to administer an intravenous injection during the Expert Field Medical Badge Train Up at Kuhberg Training Area on August 23.

Uncle Sam ^{wants} you...

The 1st Armored Division's Public Affairs Office has reinstated a program to ensure that all units throughout the division footprint receive the recognition they deserve. The Public Affairs Office cannot do this alone so we are asking for your assistance.

All units are encouraged to participate in the Unit Writers Program. This program depends on the active participation from the brigades, separate battalions, companies and family support groups.

Just send the stories and photos of the events you would like to see featured in the Ironside for publication or posting on the website for world wide viewing.

All stories submitted should be timely and focused on people accomplishing the mission or contributing to quality of life. Stories about family support groups are also acceptable for publication

Some people like to write while others enjoy photography. The Ironside

always has room for outstanding photos.

These photos need to be a minimum of 200dpi, optimal size is 300dpi. The magazine can accept color and black and white photos.

Keeping people informed not only boosts morale but also keeps everyone informed on what's going on throughout the communities.

Here are some basic guidelines for unit writers and photographers:

- All stories submitted need to include the Name/Rank and Unit of the person writing the story. You should also include a phone number and email address, if available, so we can contact you if we have questions.

- Keep everything simple and direct.
- Use short sentences.
- A sentence that runs longer than 25 words is probably too long. Paragraphs run no more than four for each soldier mentioned in the story.

- All stories need quotes and every quote should include the complete name of those attributed.

- Photos should include both eyes and the hands of the subject(s).

- The action should be easily identified.

- If possible, the Division patch or other unit identifier should be easy to see.

- All photos require a caption with a full name (who), unit, what is taking place, where it's happening, date (when) and for what reason, if applicable

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Stories and photos can be mailed to the 1st AD Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AETV-THE-A, Ironside Editor, Unit 24309, APO AE 09252.

Stories can also be e-mailed to the Ironside Editor, Cpl. G. Withrow at withrowg@hq.1ad.army.mil or faxed to DSN 490-6379, or commercial at 0671-609-6379.

141 Sig Bn fires German weapons

Story and photos by
Spc. Michael J. McHugh
1st Armored Division PAO

Early in the morning on July 29, twenty 141st Signal Battalion soldiers set out to earn a rare award, the Schuetzenschnur, the German weapons qualification award.

To earn the award, the American soldiers have to qualify to German Army standards on the German weapons: the MG-3 machinegun and on either the PK-8 pistol or the G-2 rifle.

"I thought it was exciting training with the Germans, we learned a lot about their army. They taught us a lot about their weapons," said Staff Sgt. Tara Bryan from Company C.

The shooting competition was part of the ongoing German-American partnership program between the 141 Signal Battalion, and German Army's 920th Signal Regiment, based in Kastellaun.

Through the partnership, the German and American soldiers take turns hosting military-oriented events. For the Schuetzenschnur, the 141 Signal Battalion. Soldiers traveled by bus to Kastellaun, a 45-minute drive from their post in Bad Kreuznach.



A soldier from 141st Signal Battalion fires the PK-8 pistol under the watchful eye of a German range NCO.

The German weapons are quite different from the weapons the American soldiers train on. The PK-8 pistol is similar to the American M-9 pistol, but heavier with a more rugged design. The G-2 rifle is a lot heavier than the American M16A2 rifle. And where the M16A2 fires a 5.56mm round, the German rifle fires a larger, 7.62mm round.

"It was a good learning experience...learning about the differences between German and American weapons," said Spc. Gordon Smith from Company A.

Each of the American soldiers familiarized and attempted to qualify with the German weapons. And each had a favorite.

"I liked the 9mm PK-8 pistol...also the power of the [other] weapons. [The weapons] were more difficult to control but easier to aim accurately," said Staff Sgt. Donnell Hassell from Company A.

"...[I] liked the German rifle best, even though it gave me a black eye!" said Sgt. Sharon Vermillion from Company A.

By the end of the day, all 20 soldiers qualified for the Schuetzenschnur. The Schuetzenschnur has three different levels: gold for expert, silver for sharpshooter and bronze for marksman. Three of the 141st Signal soldiers qualified for the gold badge, the other 17 soldiers qualified for the silver badge.

The Schuetzenschnur is a permanent award for American enlisted soldiers. The gold, silver or bronze medal is set in a gray braided rope that is worn on the shoulder of the Class A uniform, similar to a forage. Once they have qualified and receive the orders for the award, they are eligible to wear it.

"I thought it was great [getting the Schuetzenschnur]. I had seen other soldiers with it and I wanted it since I was first stationed in Germany," said Bryan.

"We have been having activities together for almost a year," said Staff Sgt. James Fenney, the battalion's partnership noncommissioned officer in charge. The 141st Signal Battalion and the German 920th Signal Regiment have planned other partnership activities, including the German Physical Training Award qualification, joint field exercises, and participation in 141st Signal Battalion's Iron Time Training and Organization Day. "We're going to invite [the German soldiers] for our PT test, our marksmanship qualification, and our NCO Professional Development Program," said Fenney.



Sgt. Sharon Vermillion, of Company A, receives instructions from a German range NCO prior to firing the G-2 rifle.

16th Eng Bn competes for Connelly



Pfc. Adam T. Putnam, 16th Engineer Battalion, slices ham in preparation for the lunchtime salad bar.

Story and photos by
Spc. Amanda M. Domaszek
1st Armored Division PAO

GIESSEN, Germany- One by one soldiers and civilians follow their noses toward the delicious smells wafting out of the 16th Engineer Battalion Dining Facility. They filter in, eager to eat at the best dining facility in V Corps.

The 16th Engineer Battalion Dining Facility won V Corps level 33rd Annual Phillip A. Connolly Competition in the large dining facility category, those that serve more than 200 patrons, on March 14.

Each major subordinate command designates two officials to judge the competition. The judges base their decisions on such factors as the quality of training and management, food service sanitation, command and community support, appearance and attitude of personnel, dining area, and food preparation and quality.

To prepare for competition, the dining facility staff concurred that they just did their daily routines. The Connolly competition is unique in that they are critiqued solely on their day-to-day mission, according to Staff Sgt. Gregory Welch, the facility's assistant manager.

After 1st AD judges evaluate their dining facilities, they submit their nominees to V Corps. The V Corps judges evaluate all the nominees and select their representatives to submit to United States Army Europe level-competition. Those winners then compete at the Army-level.

"Meeting the standards is something we do every day, not something we set aside. We work to standard every day of the year," said Welch, "Many civilians, military personnel and families enjoy our dining facility. It is our way of giving our support back to the community."

The staff is continuously looking for ways to improve the dining experience. One of their latest changes is the buffet-style dining. "The self-service is a good improvement. People can get whatever portion they want," said Ben Sugui, a safety office employee who frequently eats at the dining facility.

The 16th Engineer Battalion Dining Facility's success is a combination of great staff, great food, teamwork and support from the soldiers, community and command, according to Sgt. First Class Joseph Kelly, the 16th Engineer Battalion Dining facility's manager.

Being the best is important to soldiers for various reasons. "The competition pulls us closer together to work as one team, not just one day, but all the time," said Spec. Lesley S. Cislo, food service specialist assigned to the winning facility.

"The competition provides the division with better

quality soldiers, enhances training and ensures soldiers receive nutritious food," said Sgt. Maj. Brenda Parks, the 1AD Food Service sergeant major. "It also instills the pride of having someone to compete overall. It boosts the morale of the soldiers within the division."

Although the 1st Armored Division did not advance at the USAREUR competition, they are proud of the fact that they are the first garrison unit in the 1AD to win at the V Corps level according to Parks.

Look
1st what
Armored
Division
is
cooking
up...

Cooks turn up heat in soldier competition

Story and photos by
Spc. Amanda M. Domaszek
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany- The silence breaks as Sgt. Jennifer Knoble knocks at the door. Knoble struggles to hide her nervousness as she enters the room. Knoble faces the board members, reports and goes through the usual facing movements associated with soldier boards. But that's where the similarities end.

"When does the cooking process begin for frozen vegetables?" asks Sgt. 1st Class Clarence Bowdry.

"What are the two broad classifications that sandwiches are divided into?" he asks.

Despite her nervousness, Knoble answered the questions without hesitation. Her grace under fire earned her the title of 1st Armored Division Cook of the Year in the NCO category.

Four noncommissioned officers and three enlisted soldiers, all food service specialists, competed for the title of Cook of the Year in the NCO and enlisted soldier category.

The Cook of the Year board is the second level of the competition. Each soldier had already competed and won Cook of Quarter, but as the saying goes "There can be only one."

"Winning is important to me because it helps me build a positive self-esteem and it is important in my career advancement," said Knoble, a food service specialist assigned to HHC, 16th Engineer Battalion in Giessen.

Knoble shared the spotlight with Spc. Nicholas Kachiros, a food service specialist assigned to HHC, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment in Baumholder. The two competed for their titles in Bad Kreuznach, Sept. 6.

The board members are all senior NCOs in the food service specialty. But the questions they ask cover not only food service, but basic soldier knowledge, as well. The board members' topics include questions on categories such as leadership counseling, first aid and the chain of command.

"All military subjects are covered, rather than just food service, to prepare the soldiers for other boards in order for them to progress professionally," said Sgt. Maj. Brenda Parks, the 1AD Food Service sergeant major.

The board acts as a training mechanism to inspire soldiers to

learn all aspects of the Army, master their food service skills and promotes the division incentive award program, a program that is designated to award food service personnel with recognition according to Parks.

"The competition is important to the soldiers because it inspires competitiveness to win," said Parks.

For Kachiros, the board helped him prepare for future competitions. "Going to the board taught me how to prepare for other boards and how to carry myself at a board."

Soldiers score points for how well they answer each question, five points being the highest score on each question. The president selects all board questions. A soldier can also score up to 20 points for oral communications and 20 points for their personal appearance.



Sgt. Jennifer Knoble, HHC, 16th Engineer Battalion and Spc. Nicholas Kachiros, HHC, 16th Engineer Battalion both won 1st Armored Division Cook of the Year.

Several of the soldiers honed their skills by paying extra attention to detail on their uniforms and studying Army manuals.

Knoble took a more unique approach. "I had people quiz me with questions and I would do physical training if I got the answers wrong," she said.

Knoble and Kachiros will advance to the V Corps competition to be held in Heidelberg. For winning the division competition, both soldiers received an Army Achievement Medal, a \$100 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificate, a Noncommissioned Officers Association certificate of achievement, and a trophy.

1AD^{unit} lights up Putlos

1-4 ADA fires together for first time in three years

Story and photos by
Spc. Michael J. McHugh
1st Armored Division PAO

For the first time in three years, the entire 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery participated in a live-fire exercise in Putlos, near the North Sea, Sep. 2-14.

Soldiers from every battery practiced their air defense skills on Remote Control Maneuverable Aerial Targets, 1/5th Scale Aerial Targets and Ballistic Aerial Target Systems. "Firing as a battalion was a valuable training experience, particularly since they were able to fire live Stinger missiles. This was a big moral booster to go out and shoot that big missile," said Command Sgt. Maj. Bobby J. Brown, 1-4 ADA.

"We were able to take the training they did back in the rear and transfer it from the blackboard to a real field environment," said Sgt. Michael Dixon, an Avenger Weapons System team chief, Battery D, 1-4 ADA. "Both of my gunners, for their first time shooting, got direct hits," said Dixon.

Training with real Stinger missiles had an impact on the soldiers who

"This was a big moral booster to go out and shoot that big missile."

Command Sgt. Maj. Bobby J. Brown,
1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery.

fired them. "[I] liked being able to fire the missiles for real, instead of just doing crew drills. It felt different actually firing it in a combat situation." Said Pfc. Derrick Ransome, an Avenger Weapon System gunner assigned to Battery D.

"We are going through all types of training, doing a live fire now makes me feel more confident going down to Kosovo," said Ransome.

The training was part of the preparation for Ransome and the rest of the 1st Platoon, Battery D who will deploy to Kosovo as part of the 1st Armored Division second rotation. "We're getting familiar with the weapon systems," said Pvt. Sean Richardson, a man-portable air defense system or MANPAD (shoulder-fired Stinger missile) gunner attached to Battery D for the Kosovo mission. "When we're in Kosovo we're going to be doing a peace-keeping mission, [but] it's good to have the field training in case we do have to use these weapon systems," said Richardson.

In addition to firing the Stinger missiles from the Avenger and MANPAD weapons systems, the gunners on the Avengers were able to engage targets with M3P .50 caliber machine guns. While many of the gunners did well, one of the best was also the youngest and least experienced. Pvt. Jason Lee Trowbridge was able to engage and destroy a 1/5th scale aerial target using the machine gun mounted on the Avenger.

The target was a scaled model of an SU-25 Frogfoot which is the Russian equivalent of our United States Air Force A-10 Tank Killer which was used extensively during Desert Storm. The 1/5th scale aerial targets are equipped with magnetic sensors that generate a magnetic field the size of the full-scale plane. When rounds pass through that field they are detected and scored as "hits". The gunners score points for each hit.

Trowbridge, age 17, just recently graduated advanced individual training.



Pvt. Sean Richardson, Battery B, 1-4 ADA, receives instructions from his team chief on the MANPAD, a shoulder fired Stinger missile system.



Pvt. Jason Lee Trowbridge, a gunner from Battery D, and Spc. Robert M. Perez, his Team Chief, display a 1/5th scale aerial target he shot down using the MP3 .50 cal. machinegun on his Avenger Weapon System.

He joined the unit, his first assignment, July 3. Trowbridge not only scored "hits", but managed to be the only soldier in the battalion to completely blow the little plane out of the sky, earning him an expert rating.

Trowbridge said he joined the Army to "blow stuff up." He trained during the Avenger Situational Training Exercise and on the Avenger simulator system, but attributes his skills to the fact that he has been "shooting guns all my life and playing video games," in his hometown of Gulfport, Miss.

The 1st Platoon, Battery D, 1-4 ADA soldiers will continue training until December when they leave for Kosovo to replace 4th Platoon, Battery D soldiers who are deployed there now.

"We gained a lot of confidence in this gunnery. If we had to deploy the battalion into a conflict situation, we could pull it off without a hitch," said Brown.



Jay Levine displays a 1/5th Scale Aerial Target, the aircraft he pilots via a remote-control device.

Civilian flies against Army air defense

Story by Spc. Joe Thompson
Photo by Spc. Michael J. McHugh
1st Armored Division PAO

PUTLOS, Germany—Jay Levine has been flying against Army Air Defense teams for five years, not as an enemy pilot, but flying 1/5th scale aerial targets. The miniature remote controlled airplanes buzz around the air defense gunnery range, as soldiers try to shoot them down using various types of air defense weaponry, at the German training area in Putlos, Germany.

"Most of the people that see us flying these aircraft think of them as toys, but they really should be thought of as targets. They can be configured for many different firing systems, and depending upon the criteria of a mission, they can even be configured to fly at night," said Mr. Levine, a pilot, builder, and mechanic with Continental Remote Piloted Vehicle Systems (RPVS).

Mr. Levine learned his flying skills as a recreational model plane pilot, and he also flew the smaller Remote Controlled Miniature Aerial Targets when he was in the Army.

"Back when I was serving in the Air Defense Artillery, they needed someone to fly the RCMATs, the 1/9th scale aerial targets, during the gunneries. Since I flew model aircraft before I was in the Army, I was a logical choice."

Levine has been flying ever since his Army days. Continental RPVS flies their miniature aircraft against all the services, and they go wherever the soldiers train.

"I love this job. I get the chance to help the soldiers train while doing what I love. You can't beat that."

(Background) Pfc. Derrick Ransome, a gunner with Battery D, 1-4 ADA, fires a missile from an Avenger Weapons System at a Ballistic Aerial Target.



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